

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:438

ANSWERED ON:20.11.2007

NEW CABLE RATES

Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar;Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal;Malhotra Prof. Vijay Kumar;Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh;Singh Kunwar
Rewati Raman

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the government is aware of the exorbitant price charged by cable operators from consumers and the poor quality of beaming;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Indian Telecom Regulatory Authority (TRAI) has fixed new cable rates for various categories of cities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; State-wise;
- (e) the time by when the new cable rates are likely to be implemented alongwith the steps taken to protect the subscribers' interests;
- (f) whether the TRAI has made some recommendations with regard to non-CAS areas;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) the impact of the recommendations on consumers in non-CAS areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI)

(a) & (b): According to a Market survey commissioned by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the average monthly cable charges range from Rs.149/- to Rs.322/-

(c) to (e): In order to protect the interests of cable TV subscribers, TRAI has issued a tariff amendment order dated 04.10.2007 in which ceiling on cable charges have been prescribed based on the number of pay channels for different parts of country. The tariff order for Non-CAS areas would be effective from 01.12.2007. A tabular statement showing the ceilings is given as Annexure.

For CAS notified areas of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai, a tariff order dated 31.08.2006 has already been issued by TRAI. This tariff order has fixed a ceiling of Rs. 5/- per pay channel per month and a ceiling of Rs. 77/- per month for a minimum of 30 free to air channels.

(g) to (h): TRAI has recommended vide its letter no. 19-3/2007-B&CS dated 01.05.2007 that CAS should be extended to the non-CAS areas of the three metros of Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata. This would enable the consumers to choose the pay channels which they want to watch and thus control their monthly cable charges.